

in them. Look at the wonderful structure of this book, its unity in diversity, harmony, fullness, and completeness. The grandeur of the theme of which it treats—no theme that never, but by inspiration, never could have entered the mind of man. Not enough? Then look at Christianity itself—see what it has accomplished—contrast its beginning with what it is now. From twelve men it has grown to 30,000,000. From a stable it has spread to almost every corner of earth. From a manger it has ascended to almost every throne. If Christianity is a religion, a grand delusion, then it is one of the most astounding, overwhelming miracles ever witnessed among men. A delusion sweep the world with such potency! A delusion bring to its tribute the finest minds of earth! A delusion build up the best civilizations, build up the best governments, destroy ignorance and superstition, and spread light, life, happiness, peace and prosperity everywhere it moves! How can we believe the most astounding miracle ever performed by Jesus, that he believed such a miracle as this? And all this is still not enough evidence?—Who doubts the expedition of Cyrus? Nobody. Upon what evidence does it rest? Upon the sole testimony of Herodotus, and that full of errors. The most of men believe that the siege of Troy was a fact, and the only testimony they have is the Iliad of Homer. But men will doubt Christianity, which has been guarded at every step, corroborated by evidences stronger and better than any other work has ever been sustained by natural and supernatural events; carried forward by human, angelic and divine agents, and sustained by historical and internal evidences strong enough to convince the dullest mind.

They say it opposes science. Prove that your science is correct first, and then show a solitary instance where the Bible contradicts it, and we will give it up.

III. The last cause for infidelity is man's unfaithfulness in professing Christianity.

This may be a humiliating fact for me to admit, but as shameful as it may be we must admit it.

It is nothing, of course, which can be held to the charge of Christianity itself, but altogether to the charge of its professors. Because some soldiers were cowards and some deserters and went over to the rebels, therefore the Union was not thereby injured; it would have remained the same righteous cause if the whole army had deserted. Neither are men justified for infidelity by the unfaithfulness of professors, but yet this is just what men are doing, and while it is so, the duty lies upon the professor of Christianity, so far as possible, to give no occasion to condemn it because of his unfaithfulness. It is his duty to endeavor to live up to the standards of the Christian religion and not to fall below them, for according to the law of Christ Jesus, "Ye are my witnesses." The religion of Jesus is to be recognized and to exhibit a false light, and hold out to the world what is an open contradiction of Christianity, proven recent to his trust. By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? "We unto him by whom offense cometh. It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea." It were better not to live than to stand in the way of another—rather than offend him, it were better to lose an eye or a hand. If I have cause to offend myself or another, pluck it out, unless thou canst govern it. If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and so forth. It were better for thee to go into life blind and maimed than with both eyes and hands to stand in the way of another and sink into hell. Paul says, "If eating meat make my brother to offend I will eat no meat while the world stands. I will neither eat meat or drink, or wear anything whereby my brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." This principle carried out by all professing Christians would set Christianity before the world in a different light. It would remove the argument behind which infidelity is so strongly entrenched—"That Christianity is a failure, its professors are no better than the world." Now the history of the world proves that infidelity has always flourished, most in times when the Church was most degenerate—when it did not exhibit the life and character of Jesus Christ. Voltaire came out of the Church and was led into infidelity because of the infidelity and cruel spirit of the Church of Rome, manifested in slaughtering and branding the Protestants of France. It was during the terrible thirty years' war that skepticism most rapidly grew and flourished. The haberdashers of that era were destroyed all creeds, and all the people were left without a God. The people went into the Church, and finally a natural born skepticism and infidelity sprang up. Whenever the Church has become corrupt, or has fallen into dead formalism, infidelity has been the legitimate result. So it was in Denmark and Germany and so it is today. The most subtle skeptics, the strongest rationalists are Germans. They have grown out of the dead, formal, corrupt condition of the German Church.

The mightiest agency that can be brought to bear against infidelity is a live evangelism—a live, active, progressive Church. The moralities of the Bible, the life and character of Jesus Christ, are things that the bitterest infidelity must admit. Some of the finest eulogies ever pronounced on the character of Jesus Christ have been written by infidels. Now if the Christian Church exhibits the life of Jesus this is a standing rebuke to infidels, they themselves being judges. And then the work that grace performs in the human heart forever shuts the mouths of infidel opposers. When they see a man as proud as Lucifer, as ferocious as a lion, suddenly transformed into a new creature, and rendered as mild and meek as a lamb. When they see the thief transformed into a man of unquestioned honor, the drunkard transformed into a man of sobriety, and the libertine into a man of virtue, it is an argument they can not answer. The sad trouble is, the Church is hiding too much all the Christ-like elements of Christianity and is being too largely transformed into a formal institution of the world. How can men believe in our religion when they see the same unholy spirit among its votaries that drives and contracts the ungodly world outside? When Christian people run with sinners to the same extent of riot, when there are no places where the ungodly reason where Christians are not found? When they are secretly plotting crime, or indulging in practices which not only the law of God condemns, but which the civil law most severely punishes? When they are exalting their resources in high living and countless indulgences fit all the luxuries of life, while men are perishing everywhere for the word of life. When the Christian can not be distinguished either by look, word or deed from any one else. When they are just as proud,

Barham's connecting link or "What is it?" These are the things which produce skepticism and infidelity. And with such matters are the time and the attention of the ministry largely engaged. It requires often all the cash, and time, and power they possess to manage the sinners inside the church and outside. Jesus sent his disciples first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But in these latter days, such seems to be the tendency of the sheep to go astray, that the under shepherds find it more than they can do to keep the fold. Their messages often fall powerlessly upon the impotent, because of the unworthy example of some one who claims to be an example of the truth taught.

A minister of the gospel full of zeal and with a desire to save the lost, went out and undertook by personal effort to lead men to daylight. He went to a prominent saloonkeeper and tried to induce him to abandon his business and become a Christian man. He straightened himself up and said, "Go back and reform the members of your church first, for I sell them liquor every year, and if they can use it and be good Christians, I can sell it and be no worse."

I have talked with men on the subject of religion, and they have all seemed to be pointing toward an unfaithful professor and have said that such persons claim to be good Christians, but they do things I would not do, and if religion does not help me, of course no man can be justified for rejecting Christianity on any such grounds. His judgment may be too severe. We cannot know the hearts of men, and ought not to be too positive in our criticisms. Religion may have done much for the persons complained of. They may be a good deal better, notwithstanding all their imperfections, than they would be without the profession they make.

They may after all blunder into heaven, yet there is no denying a wrong doing, either in the saloon or in the street, if wrong is such that no one can be ignorant of the fact that it is wrong.

Thus is the gospel hindered and the ministry hindered by the unfaithfulness of professing Christians. All this gives opportunity for infidelity to grow, and it is not slow to improve the opportunity. But let Christian men and women live what they profess, have moral nerve and backbone enough to stand by the Bible and their convictions of right, and infidelity will flee the land. It never has and never can stand before a faithful people with the Holy Ghost and full of power.

Although it is a strong antagonist, it may be throttled in a day if God's people only stood where they ought to.

But notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the cause of Christianity has never been defeated, and it never will be.

Certain it is God will carry forward his cause, and if there is a Christian who is not willing to rally to the fray, he will make up for his unfaithfulness by the example of the disobedient and sluggish beneath his feet, will put down his foot.

Christianity is God's greatest blessing to this earth. We concede that infidelity, while it has failed to stop the progress of Christianity, has added much in helping it on, by explaining many things that were obscure, and bringing to the aid of the Bible the light of science and the fruit of discovery. But beyond this, infidelity contributes nothing to the progress or happiness of the world.

While Christian missionaries are found in every land, educating and lifting up the down-trodden, and enlightening infidelity is doing nothing but trying to hinder and cry down.

What is it that builds hospitals and asylums, almshouses and homes for the destitute? Christianity. What is it that has instituted and is carrying on the great reforms? Christianity. What is it that builds up civilization by purifying the public mind? Christianity.

What is it that believes in profanity and Sabbath desecration? Infidelity. What is it that encourages saloon-keeping and the vicious use of strong drink? Infidelity. What is it that would abrogate the sacred marriage vow and flood the land with the curse of polygamy? Infidelity. What is it that would destroy conscience and overthrow all moral obligations and give every man license to do as he pleases? Infidelity.

We owe all we are and all we ever hope to be as a nation, as a community, as individuals to Christianity. All that we should most dread, and all that can most change and destroy us, is to be found in infidelity. We owe to the religion that has saved the souls of others, as you desire to see the day ushered in when the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the deep, then let your life and conduct be an epistle read and known of all men, in indication of your Bible and the religion you profess.

It's Our Baby

T. J. Wolf is not an old man; he is not a young man, but he is a married man, and has been for several years. He lives one mile west of Westport, Mo., but no children climb upon his knee when the day dawns, and twist the old man's tail and listen to stories. Yesterday morning he went to the fodder shed to get provender for his milch cow, and as he stooped to pull the ears he suddenly discovered midway in the shock what he at first took to be a horse blanket. He picked it up and unrolled it, and discovered two rolls of red flannel. He unraveled these and there lay a girl baby about four or five hours old. He took it into the house and showed it to Mrs. W. She remarked that it had blue eyes, and then she looked into her husband's eyes to satisfy herself that she hadn't been mistaken. Wolf held up his hand and said he would swear, but the good wife didn't require it. So this new foundling was encompassed with new linen, and Mrs. W. sat down to make baby clothes, while Wolf got out on the floor and danced, and sang, and hit his wife on the back of the head and "hollored."

"Bully for us. It's our young one, isn't it Mrs. Wolf? And didn't cost a cent, did it? Hurrah!"

And then he went out and hitched up two yoke of calves, and drove all around the house, yelling like an Indian. The little stranger has a good home, and may yet be the queen of its realm. Here's luck to the baby.—Platteville, (Wis.) Witness.

St. Louis, Sept. 23.—Justice Miller delivered his opinion in the McCook case this morning. It overrules the decision of the Government to the answer of defendant, and the suit therefore fails. The cause can, however, be repeated to the Supreme Court, but District Attorney Bliss has not yet decided whether he will take such action.

For County Judge, SAMUEL F. GREER. For County Clerk, GEORGE P. HARRY. For County Treasurer, GEO. M. WOOD. For Superintendent of Schools, JOHN T. MONTGOMERY.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

"The freedom of the press of this country," the New York Evening Express well says, "has been terribly abused. There is no law of libel sufficiently stringent and complete in its provisions to protect scurrility and abuse of blackguard journalists. A newspaper is a disgraceable opponent in a suit at law, for lawyers and judges feel and fear the power of the press, and shrink from incurring its disfavor. Individual character, the privacy of home, the sanctities of private life, are all more or less at the mercy of unprincipled wretches, who foist themselves upon the public as journalists. Public officers of all political parties, men whose private lives are above reproach and whose characters are stainless, are covered with opprobrium and often hunted down by these newspaper guerrillas of the press, who hunt down men and women for gain, and make the destruction of character their trade. This species of journalism ought to be crushed out for the sake of the character and influence of the press as well as for the interests of the community and public morals. A journalist ought to be a gentleman, not a blackguard, not a poisoner. And the profession ought to protect itself if possible by expelling from its ranks all blackguards and Bash-Bazookas."

AN HISTORICAL DOCUMENT.

The following letter, lately discovered by Mr. Washburne among the archives of the French government, has by the permission of the Minister on Foreign Affairs, been photographed, and a copy of it sent to the state department at Washington:

Paris, Dec. 23, 1776.—Sir: We beg leave to acquaint your Excellency that we are appointed and fully empowered by the congress of the United States of America to propose and negotiate a treaty of amity and commerce between France and said states. The just and generous treatment their trading ships have received by a free admission into the ports of this kingdom, with other considerations of respect, has induced the congress to make this offer first to France. We request an audience of your Excellency, wherein we may have an opportunity of presenting our credentials, and we, flatter ourselves that the propositions we are instructed to make are such as will not be found unacceptable. With the greatest regard, we have the honor to be your Excellency's most obedient servants,

BENJ. FRANKLIN, SILAS DEANE, ARTHUR JENK.

The letter was in the handwriting of Benjamin Franklin, and the transmission of it was the first official act of the United States after the Declaration of Independence, the object of which secured foreign recognition of the infant republic.

Ready for Pardon.

Philadelphia Times.

The nearly unanimous opinion of the Southern press is that President Hayes is fully reconstructed and ought to have his disabilities removed.

Senator Morton's Recovery.

There will be congratulations among the mass of all parties because of the apparent reliable assurance of the ultimate recovery of Senator Morton. He will doubtless be an invalid at home for weeks yet, and perhaps for months, but the hope is warranted that he may be able to resume his seat in the senate, some time during the fall and winter, with his great mental facilities unimpaired. Widely and earnestly as half the people of the country often differ from him in his public utterances and acts, there are few who would not mourn his death as a national calamity. He is the ablest of all the republican leaders, and he, more nearly than any other in any party, completes the circle of a popular and senatorial chieftain.

THE late Senator Boggs never allowed political bias to sway him in his personal relations. He expressed the utmost friendship for Senator Morton, and has been heard to say that Morton outside of his politics, was "as good a man as ever lived." This kindly feeling was reciprocated by Mr. Morton.

Buy one ton of block coal and try it, and you will never use any other kind. Aug. 28-dtf

TELEGRAPHIC HAYS & BARTHOLOMEW'S ONE-PRICE CASH DRY GOODS!

The Train Robbers

Particulars of the Killing of two of the Gang.

SENATOR MORTON'S CONDITION.

Grant in England.

UNCLE BILLY McKEE'S CASE.

OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 23.—It has been known to several parties in this city, your correspondent included, since Wednesday, that two of the Union Pacific train robbers had been killed near Buffalo Station, on the Kansas Pacific Railroad, and a large amount of the stolen money recovered from their bodies. At the request of Union Pacific officials, the information has been withheld from the public for prudential reasons. The clew which led to this result, and which is in confidently believed will result also in the capture of the remaining members of the gang, was obtained from a passenger who was robbed.

He identified Collins, the leader, who was one of the men killed at Buffalo. Collins claimed to be a cattle man, and made his headquarters at Ogallala, a station nineteen miles east of Big Springs, the scene of the robbery, where he is well known. Last fall he drove some cattle to the Black Hills, and a Mr. Riley, of this city, went through with him. Two weeks ago last Sunday Riley met Collins at Ogallala. Riley was on the train which was robbed, and was himself wounded while standing on the platform of the car by a shot fired by one of the robbers, and when the robbers came through the car he recognized Collins, notwithstanding his mask.

As soon as Riley reached Omaha he gave this information. Another passenger, a man engaged in business at one of the Indian agencies, also recognized Collins. A day or two preceding the killing of Collins and his companion, a detective entered into the camp of the robbers at 3 o'clock in the morning while they were asleep and learned there were six well armed men, and that they were still in possession of the plunder. He identified Collins and two others. He departed unobserved, and made a report to Sup't Clark, of the Union Pacific.

Upon learning these facts, and that the men were likely soon to separate, telegraphed Gen. Pope to have troops scout along the line of the Kansas Pacific and endeavor to intercept them. This was done, with the result as stated. Buffalo Station is about 300 miles south of Big Springs, where the robbery was committed. The money taken from the bodies of Collins and Bass, his companion, will arrive here tomorrow.

LONDON, Sept. 23.—A banquet was given in honor of Gen. Grant by the mayor and corporation of Sheffield, last night. The proceedings were very enthusiastic.

Gen. Grant arrived at Stratford on Avon, to day, and met with a brilliant reception. His visit was made the occasion of a festival in which the whole town took part. The mayor and members of the corporation received Gen. and Mrs. Grant, and they were then escorted to Shakespeare's birthplace. The distinguished visitors were subsequently entertained at a public lunch in the town hall. A toast to the health of Gen. Grant was proposed and drunk with cheers, and he was presented with a very cordial address enclosed in a basket made from wood of a mulberry tree planted by Shakespeare. The General responded to the toast, and spoke most heartily of the welcome given him. He declared that it would have been impossible for him to leave England without visiting the birthplace and home of Shakespeare. He pointed to several of American Shakespearean societies as proof of the honor paid by the United States.

RICHMOND, IND., Sept. 23.—Senator Morton's condition is still very critical, although he is better in some respects than two weeks ago. The Senator has been unable from the first to recline upon his side, and as he occupied his chair so persistently a very serious sore upon the extremity of his spine is the result. Recently he has been lying upon a canvas sheet. This bad sore has caused considerable anxiety to the Senator's family, but his physicians assert that it is not necessarily serious, and can be healed when the Senator's strength will permit his changing his present position. Secretary Thompson visited him this morning. The interview was very brief. The Senator spoke a few words, and the distinguished visitors left him in an exhausted condition. His visitors expressed great surprise at the Senator's enfeebled condition.

THE Weekly Sun is the great favorite in the country.—Daily Sun.

The Weekly Sun is hardly known in the country. To find a man in Macon county that reads the weekly Sun would be like hunting for a needle in the hay now. We notice the above squib only for the purpose of showing how reckless and untruthful the Sun is in its statements.

Our new 81-4 cent Prints are splendid, and our new 81-3 cent Prints are as pretty and good as they make them; fall styles.

You want to see both our Bleached and Unbleached Muslin, one yard wide, soft, fine and even, at 81-3 cents.

And when you come to our new Black Cashmeres, at the low prices, be very careful, or you are in for a new dress.

Lots of new Ties, Rushings, and a heap of pretty things just in, fresh and nice.

Look at our new "Reception" and "Promenade" Hoopskirt, at \$1.00; they are the newest.

Decatur, Ill., August 31, 1877.—dwt

GO AND SEE

S. EINSTEIN'S BEAUTIFUL STOCK OF FALL AND WINTER DRY GOODS!

Just received, in which Special Bargains are offered to all who may give him a call.

NOTICE SOME OF OUR PRICES:

20 yards Brown Muslin.....	\$1.00
12 " Soft Finish Bleached Muslin.....	1.00
16 " Best Dark Calico.....	1.00
12 " Good Cotton Flannel.....	1.00

Also, a full line of BLACK ALPACAS, CASHMERES, plain and fancy DRESS GOODS, and Ladies' and Gents' FURNISHING GOODS. Give me a call and examine my prices before purchasing elsewhere. Remember the place—

NO. 21 NORTH WATER STREET. S. EINSTEIN.

Decatur, Sept. 10, 1877.—dwt

Found at Last! H. Mueller & Co. Manufacturers and Dealers in Breech and Muzzle Loading

The Perfection of HARD COAL BURNERS, viz., the

CROWN JEWEL!

Also, the—

GOOD RECORD,

which is an excellent stove, and at very low prices.

For Soft Coal, call and see the

Crown Diamond

REVOLUTION ROTARY.

Also, a full assortment of all kinds of

COAL AND WOOD STOVES.

Also, a Full Line of

Hardware, Tinware, Etc., Etc., Cheap for Cash.

R. O. CROCKER

No. 9 Water-St.

Sept. 15, 1877.—dwt

GARLAND ARGAND

1877. 1877.

IF YOU INTEND, OR IF YOU DON'T INTEND TO BUY A

BASE BURNER FOR HARD COAL, Come in and Warm Yourself

by either the "Garland" or Argand, and see with how little additional expense you can heat your house with one of THESE STOVES, instead of the old style soft coal or wood burner.

Sept. 15, 1877.—dwt

MOREHOUSE & WELLS.

Cashmere [sep26-d1w]

Farm Wanted.

I have valuable Chicago property which I wish to exchange for a first-class farm. Address to W. L. DUNN, 17 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. may 17-1900

OPIMUM

the receipt of Directors and the opinion of such other business as may properly come before the same will be held in the office of the Company, 15 South Pennsylvania street, Indianapolis, Indiana, on the eleventh day of October, at 12 o'clock, noon.

A. DUPRAT, Secretary
New York, Aug. 9, 1877
S—W&W

W. HAYNE & CO.,
Importers Wines, Brandies, &c.
RANDOLPH ST., CHICAGO.
 SEND FOR PRICE LIST.
 1875-d1mo

Grainer & Paper Hang-
FUL, for past favors, a continuance
 of patronage of the public is respect-
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